



**File Code:** 1570 (215)

#09-01-00-0065

**Date:** October 22, 2009

Sara Jane Johnson  
Native Ecosystems Council  
P.O. Box 125  
Willow Creek, MT 59760

Dear Ms. Johnson:

This is my decision on disposition of the appeal you filed, on behalf of the Native Ecosystems Council and the Alliance for the Wild Rockies regarding the Rat Creek Salvage Decision Notice (DN) on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (Wisdom Ranger District).

My review of your appeal was conducted pursuant to, and in accordance with, 36 CFR 215.18 to ensure the analysis and the decision are in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policy, and orders. I have reviewed the appeal record, including your arguments, the information referenced in the Forest Supervisor's September 22, 2009 transmittal letter, and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendation (copy enclosed). The transmittal letter provides the specific page references to discussions in the Environmental Assessment, DN, and project file, which bear upon your objections. I specifically incorporate in this decision the appeal record, the references and citations contained in the transmittal letter, and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendation.

The Appeal Reviewing Officer has considered your arguments, the appeal record, and the transmittal letter and recommends the Acting Forest Supervisor's decision be affirmed and your requested relief be denied.

Based upon a review of the references and citations provided by the Forest Supervisor, I find the objections were adequately considered in the DN. I agree with the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and conclusions in regard to your appeal objections. I find the Acting Forest Supervisor made a reasoned decision and has complied with all laws, regulations, and policy.

After careful consideration of the above factors, I affirm the Acting Forest Supervisor's decision to implement the Rat Creek Salvage project. Your requested relief is denied.

My decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR 215.18(c)].

Sincerely,

/s/ *Ranotta K. McNair*  
RANOTTA K. MCNAIR  
Acting Deputy Regional Forester



cc: Dave Myers  
Peri R Suenram  
Julie K King  
Ray G Smith  
Earl Stewart